

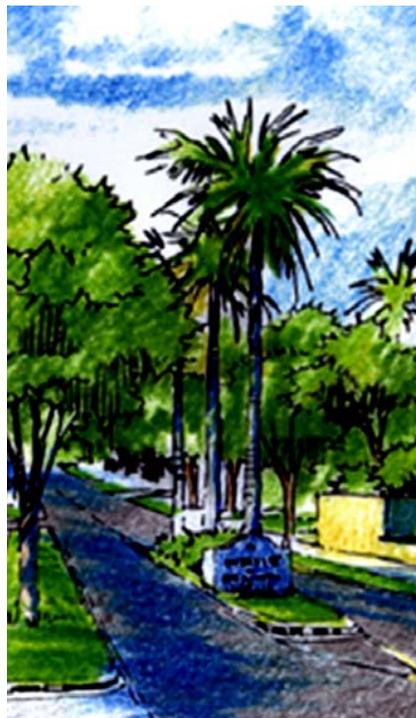
TRAFFIC CALMING STRATEGIES

The objective of traffic calming is to slow traffic while allowing vehicular travel through a neighborhood. Traffic calming measures include narrowing of streets, street trees close to the pavement edge, on-street parking, monuments and plantings at mid-intersection, pavers at crosswalks, bulb-outs to narrow ingress and egress points where streets intersect, and many other methods.

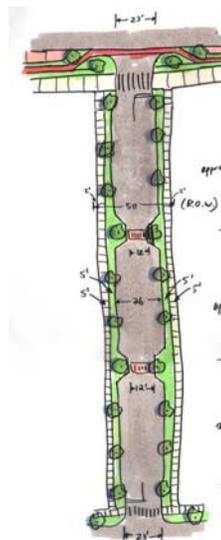
The best traffic calming methods create psychological barriers to speed rather than physical barriers. By planting large shade trees close to the edge of the pavement and creating a canopy over the street, drivers feel they are in a tight space and slow down. In addition, the trees and cars parked along the sides of the street worry drivers.

Some traffic calming methods can also be used to beautify a neighborhood and call attention to an area. At intersections, small islands can be created, like the one illustrated to the immediate right, that can include attractive tree plantings, markers, or monuments.

As connections and street improvements are made, consideration should be given to including traffic calming strategies into the design of the improved street sections. Incorporation of appropriate traffic calming measures will minimize the impact of traffic. Oakes Road and the new parallel street proposed just west of SR 7, between Orange Drive and Oakes Road, are examples of streets that should be considered for traffic calming. Oakes Road in particular should be considered for calming at the time it is extended over the Florida Turnpike.



Residential Neighborhood Street calmed by use of median plantings and a stone monument.



Periodically narrowing the street and installing slightly raised platforms of a rough surface texture slows traffic on neighborhood streets making them safer for pedestrians and children.

Because streets are considered part of the civic realm, these public areas should be designed as beautiful places attractive to pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. All components should be beautifully designed and built with high quality materials.

The implementation of any traffic calming strategy should be done in close consultation with the adjacent neighborhoods, businesses, and home owners. A small charrette can be held within the neighborhoods to discuss various options and designs.

When budgeting for planted traffic calming islands or bulb-outs at intersections, it is important to include provisions for maintenance and watering of vegetation. In some cases, this responsibility may be assumed by the neighborhood.



Traffic circle at intersection of neighborhood streets.